1	2	3
1996-97	33470	39132
1997-98	35006	41484
1998-99	33219	42389
1999-00	36822	49671
2000-01	44560	50536
2001-02	43827	5141
2002-03	52719	6141
2003-04	63843	78150
2004-05	83536	111517
2005-06	102725 (Provisional)	142416 (Provisional)

(b) The trade era prior to the establishment of the WTO was regulated by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), 1947 of which India was a founder member. The Government believes that earning of foreign exchange through exports is important for servicing its import bill. India's main import needs can be categorised into essential items such as crude oil, fertiliser, etc; raw materials required for domestic value addition and exports, and capital goods for the modernisation and upgradation of the Indian industry.

(c) Anti dumping provisions in the country are governed by the Indian Customs Tariff Act and Rules thereunder which spell out the detailed provisions for conducting investigations and imposition of anti dumping duties on a product being dumped into India which threatens to or causes injury to the domestic industry. This legislation has been effective in enabling the domestic industry in seeking necessary relief and protection against dumping of goods in the country.

Single Tea Auction Platform

*53. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning a single Tea Auction Platform, on the lines of National Stock Exchange;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to start functioning;

(c) what is the total number of Tea Auction Centres in India and how many of those centres have localized E. auction platforms; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that two more such centres are coming up at Dibrugarh and Jorhat; if so, by when they would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No such proposal is with Government, at present.

(c) There are six main public tea auction centres at Guwahati, Siliguri, Kolkata, Coimbatore, Coonoor & Cochin. E-auctioning is being conducted on a limited basis at all the major auction centres except Kolkata. At present, the tea portal is being used for compilation of tea statistics, information dissemination and also for running the e-auction engine.

(d) No applications for setting up public auction centers at Dibrugarh and Jorhat had been received by the Tea Board.

BIMSTEC pact on FTA

*54. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that implementation of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) pact on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) hit a roadblock, following disagreements on contentious issues like Rules of Origin (ROO) sensitive list and tariff liberalization schedule; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC FTA (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Free Trade Area) was signed on 8th February, 2004. The Framework Agreement prescribed for a Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) to be constituted to carry out the negotiations.